

disabled persons, certain categories of patients, Senior Citizens, etc.

In addition to the above, concession on ad-hoc basis were also granted to delegates for attending Annual Conferences of certain organisations of Social, Educational and Cultural importance, students of some educational institutions and persons for attending National Integration Camps of certain organisations. The total number of these concessions were as under :

	1994	1995	1996
Conference :	62	55	54
Students :	22	24	8
National Integration Camps :	40	35	42

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Role of Junior Telecom Staff

1318. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC);

(b) if so, the objectives thereof; and

(c) the time by which the CERC is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government is in the process of finalising the proposal and it is expected that a Bill will be introduced in the Monsoon Session of the Parliament.

Role of Junior Telecom Staff

1319. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Not Cricket: Dirty tricks on the dirt track. The telecom tangle" appeared in the Business Standard, New Delhi on July 8, 1997; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Sir, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Railway Vending Stall at South Concourse and New Coaching Complex

1320. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the passengers are facing hardships in absence of any Railway Vending Stall at the South Concourse and New Coaching Complex of Howrah Railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether demands of the passenger are fulfilled by the unauthorised hawkers;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to allow the situation to continue at the cost of Railway; and

(e) if not, the steps taken to set up some stalls at New Coaching Complex and others at the wall of the South Concourse of the Station?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Sale of different eatable items including cold drinks, mineral water, tea, coffee, etc. are made available to the passengers through mobile platform vending. Besides, the snack bar and stalls on the first floor of the building are also well patronised. These facilities are adequate to meet the passengers' requirements.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Regular checks are undertaken for evicting the unauthorised hawkers from station premises. Provision of catering stalls at South Concourse and New Coaching Complex has not been considered necessary.

Power Generation in 8th Plan

1321. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total power generated both hydel and thermal in the country by the close of the Eighth Plan as against the installed capacity;

(b) the comparative rise in power generation cost and resultant rise in power tariff in the country;

(c) the power generation projection both thermal and hydel during the Ninth Plan period; and

(d) the strategy formulated by the Government to achieve the projected power generation to bridge the gap between demand and supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The details of the total power generated

during 1996-97 and the installed capacity as on 31.3.1997 (the last year of the 8th Plan) are given below :

Category	Installed Capacity as on 31.3.1997 (MW)	Power generation 1996-97 (MU)
Thermal	61.149.51	316869
Hydro	21.658.08	68609

(b) The average cost of supply of power and average tariff changed from various categories of consumers (for typical load), in respect of 17 State Electricity Boards on 31st March, 1994 and 31st March, 1996 is given below :

	(Paise/kwh)	
	As on 31st March, 1994	As on 31st March, 1996
Average cost of supply	154.78	179.74
<i>Average Tariff :</i>		
1. Domestic (2 kw) 110 kwh/month	94.35	110.18
2. Commercial (5 kw) 200 kwh/month	237.35	295.89
3. Agriculture 10 HP, 20% L.F.	38.82	45.88
4. Industrial (50 kw) 14600 kwh/month 40% L.F.	176.23	215.06

(c) The Working Group on Power constituted by the Planning Commission has recommended a capacity addition programme of 57.735 MW for 9th Five Year Plan comprising 17411 MW from Hydro and 39.444 MW from Thermal (including Gas, Diesel etc.) and 880 MW from Nuclear to meet the demand as projected in 15th Electric Power Survey Report. The targets for 9th Five Year Plan are yet to be finalised.

(d) To meet the projected demand, Government have initiated various steps which, inter-alia, include addition of capacity, encouraging private sector participation in power generation, better demand side management, energy conservation measures, renovation and modernisation of existing plants, reduction of transmission and distribution losses and affective utilisation of generation capacity by transfer of power from surplus regions to deficit regions through inter-regional links.

New Telephone Exchanges in West Bengal

1322. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new telephone exchanges in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(c) whether some exchanges in the State are also proposed to be expanded modernised;

(d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and

(e) the investment proposed to be made therefore during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

Clearance of Proposals for Foreign Investment

1323. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the particulars of the proposals for foreign direct investment in the field of Power generation so far approved by Government;

(b) the proposals still pending for clearance along with the details;

(c) the terms and conditions which have been agreed to by the Government;

(d) the names of the Indian collaborators;

(e) the time schedule for the commencement of the generation; and

(f) the total quantity of power is likely to be generated by these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d) The details of the project specific proposals approved for foreign direct investment in the field of power generation from August, 1991 to May, 1997 are given in enclosed Statement-I. These approvals are subject, inter-alia, to the proposals obtaining all the required statutory clearances. The details of power project proposals for foreign direct investment presently pending for clearance are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) The commencement of the generation is conditional to tying up of the required inputs/linkages and obtaining necessary clearances and achieving financial closure by the projects.

(f) The total quantity of power that can be generated by the projects approved for foreign direct investment in generation from a capacity of 20.047 MW.